



*United States Attorney
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**CHAPPAQUA MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN WHITE PLAINS FEDERAL COURT
TO CHARGES OF NARCOTICS IMPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that GUSTAVO ALZATE pled guilty today in White Plains federal court to charges arising from his participation in a conspiracy to import and distribute heroin and cocaine, and from his sales to an undercover officer of more than three kilograms of heroin.

According to the charges and statements made in court, ALZATE was the New York representative of a drug organization in Colombia run by RUBEN DARIO GARZON LONDONO. The organization conspired to import both heroin and cocaine into the United States from locations in South America.

In connection with the conspiracy, ALZATE, who worked in and lived above an upholstery store in Chappaqua, Westchester County, New York, met repeatedly with an undercover officer of the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"). During those meetings, ALZATE informed the undercover officer that he and his co-conspirators could supply large quantities of cocaine and heroin. ALZATE ultimately sold heroin to the undercover officer on two occasions: approximately 572 grams sold September 2, 2004, at West 96th Street in Manhattan, and approximately 2.5 kilograms sold on November 22, 2004, in Chappaqua.

ALZATE pleaded guilty today, before United States Magistrate Judge MARK D. FOX, to a four-count Indictment charging him with conspiracy to import cocaine and heroin and possess cocaine and heroin with intent to import it, conspiracy to distribute cocaine and heroin and possess cocaine and heroin with intent to distribute it, and distribution of heroin on the two occasions described above.

Two other individuals have been charged in connection with these conspiracies. In March 2005, a federal grand jury returned a two-count sealed Indictment charging GARZON with conspiring to import cocaine and heroin and possess cocaine and heroin with intent to import it, and conspiring to distribute cocaine and heroin. In October 2005, the Indictment was unsealed. The United States is currently seeking GARZON's extradition.

In addition, on March 9, 2005, GUILLERMO QUINTERO pleaded guilty to a one-count Information charging him with conspiring to distribute approximately 572 grams of heroin. According to the charges and statements made in court, QUINTERO imported heroin into the United States by swallowing heroin in pellets. On September 2, 2004, he met with ALZATE and the DEA undercover officer, at which time he provided the 572 grams of heroin. On July 20, 2005, QUINTERO was sentenced by United States District Judge COLLEEN MCMAHON to 37 months in prison.

ALZATE, 37, is scheduled to be sentenced by United States District Judge CHARLES L. BRIEANT on February 7, 2006. ALZATE faces a maximum sentence of three life terms plus 40 years in prison and a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison. In addition, he faces a maximum fine of \$14 million.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative efforts of the Drug Enforcement Administration Westchester Task Force.

Assistant United States Attorney JESSE M. FURMAN is in charge of the prosecution.

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